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MAP NOTICES.

BY

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Since the last notice, the United States Geological Survey has issued fourteen additional sheets of the topographic atlas of the country.

One only of these, Hempstead, is in New York. This, on a scale of 1:62,500, with a contour interval of 20 feet, is on the south shore of Long Island, southeast of Brooklyn, and represents an area sloping gently from the glacial hills of the interior to the coast marshes, which, in time, are partially protected from the sea by sand-bars.

Lying mainly in Maryland, but projecting slightly into adjacent States, are three sheets, Elkton, St. Mary and Frostburg. The first is upon a scale of 1:62,500, with contour intervals of 20 feet. It represents an area of low, rolling hills near the head of Chesapeake Bay.

The second, St. Mary, on a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 20 feet, represents the Bay and its shores northward from the mouth of Potomac River, a sinking land, with broad estuaries, the country rising on the west little more than 100 feet above the sea, while on the eastern shore it is all less than 20 feet, and most of the area is marsh.

The third sheet, on a scale of 1:62,500, with the same contour interval, shows an entirely different country. The Allegheny Front, here a cliff 2,200 feet high, crosses it from the northeast to the southwest corner. East of it are parallel ridges and valleys, the typical Appalachian structure, while west of it the country soon assumes the well-known aspect of the Allegheny plateau, a dissected plateau, with irregular drainage lines.

The region about Omaha and Council Bluffs is represented by a sheet entitled "Omaha and Vicinity." This is on a scale of 1:62,500, with a contour interval of 20 feet. The Missouri River traverses the area from north to south in a bottom-land varying from three to six miles in breadth, beneath bluffs 300 feet in height. It is joined by the Platte near the south margin of the region. The Missouri winds in broad curves through its bottom-lands, from bluff to bluff. Its frequent changes of course are shown by the numerous crescent-shaped lakes which dot the bottom-land. Four other sheets represent areas in Nebraska, York, Hebron, Superior and Scotts Bluff. The first three are near the middle of the State, and represent prairie lands, with little relief. The fourth is in the western part and shows a part of the valley of North Platte River, with Bad Land bluffs, 600 to 800 feet high, limiting it on the south.

In South Dakota are two sheets, Huron and Olivet, on a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 20 feet. These show part of James River Valley, a country of trifling, but irregular, relief, produced by glacial deposits. Across them flows James River in a narrow channel, 40 to 60 feet only in depth. The stream courses are few, and are but slightly cut below the level of the plain. It is evident that this region is in its infancy.

In Wyoming is one sheet, Sundance, on a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 50 feet. This includes the northwest portion of the Black Hills which are shown on the eastern part of the sheet, and part of the Bear Lodge mountains, in the northwest corner. Upon this sheet is a fine example of a volcanic neck, in the mountain known as Inyankara.

In California is one sheet, Dardanelles, on a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 100 feet. This represents an area in the high Sierra, the eastern portion of which has been heavily glaciated, and now presents a broken surface, with many sharp peaks, amphitheatres, and lakes. In the western portion the streams have cut heavy cañons in their descent from the higher mountains to the San Joaquin valley.

In Washington is one sheet, Mt. Stuart, representing an area on the eastern slope of the Cascade Range. It is on a scale of 1:125,000, with a contour interval of 100 feet. In the southern part is the broad valley of Yakima River, while the northern part is occupied by the rugged granite peaks and spurs of the Range.

The map of the United States, edition of 1898, just issued by the General Land Office, corrects a serious error committed in earlier editions, that of including the territory of Oregon in the Louisiana purchase. There was absolutely no excuse for this blunder, for the western limit of Louisiana has, for many years, been well established, but none the less we congratulate the Land Office on the correction.

The distribution and migrations of the American and Asiatic fur seal herds are shown most admirably on a map prepared by Mr. C. H. Townsend, of the U. S. Fish Commission. The two herds are entirely distinct in their habitat and range, the American having its home on the Pribilof Islands, and its winter range extending down the Pacific coast nearly to San Diego, following the coast closely. The Asiatic herd, with its home on the Komandorski Islands, ranges in winter and spring down the Asiatic coast, nearly as far south as Yokohama.

The United States Geological Survey has issued in connection with Bulletin 154 (Gazetteer of Kansas), a map of Kansas, on a scale of 1:750,000, about 12 miles to 1 inch, on which the relief is expressed by contours of 100 feet. It is compiled in the main from the detailed atlas sheets. As exhibiting the broad features of a portion of the Great Plains this map is of much interest.

The *Geographical Journal* for June, 1898, contains a sketch map of southern Tunis, illustrating Sir Harry H. Johnston's journeys, scale about 40 miles to 1 inch, relief expressed by brown shading; also a map of a portion of British Central Africa, west of the Loangwa River, from a sketch survey by Cyril D. Hoste; scale 1:1,000,000, relief by brown shading; a sketch map of Lob Nor and the Lower Tarim River, from a survey by T. K. Kozloff, and a map of Northeast Nicaragua, from a survey by John M. Nicol; scale 1:1,500,000, relief expressed by hachures.

The *Geographical Journal* for October, 1898, contains several maps worthy of notice: (1) a sketch map of Tirah and surrounding country, scale 1:250,000, shaded relief, published to illustrate a paper by Sir T. H. Holdich; (2) Kavirondo, East Africa, scale 1,500,000, drainage and sketch contours, with routes of exploration, accompanying an article by Mr. C. W. Hobley; (3) a railway map of the Argentine Republic and Chile, scale 80 miles to an inch, and (4) a relief map of Chile and the Argentine Republic, scale 1:20,000,000, relief shown by three shades of brown. Both maps (3 and 4) illustrate Col. Church's paper on Argentine geography.

The *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for June contains a map of Armenia and Kurdestan, showing distribution of native tribes, to illustrate an article by Mr. Victor Dingelstedt.

The *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for July contains a map of western Canada, showing routes of travel to the Klondike district, to accompany a paper by Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, scale about 100 miles to 1 inch. Also, in the same number, a series of four maps of Europe, representing various stages in the glaciation of that grand division.

Bulletin No. 10 of the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, contains as its frontispiece a small map of the United States, with adjacent parts of Canada and Mexico, representing the life zones of the country. They are classified as Boreal, Transition, Upper Austral, Lower Austral, Gulf strip of Lower Austral and Tropical. These are subdivided as humid and arid.

The conformity of these zones to altitude and latitude, or, to sum it up, with temperature, is close, and yet examination of details shows notable departures. The Boreal zone is represented only in Canada, along our northern border and upon the higher of the Cordilleras; the Tropical zone only in southern Florida, southern Texas, the lower valley of the Colorado, and along the Mexican coast. The map is an instructive generalization.

Istituto Cartografico Italiano. Atlante Scolastico per la Geografia Fisica e Politica di Giuseppe Pennesi, Roma, 1898.

This physical and political atlas contains 50 plates, 5 of which are devoted to the earth as a whole, representing the relief, ocean currents, the elements of climate, the distribution of vegetation, population and religions. These are followed by physical and political maps of countries, of which Italy naturally claims the greater proportion of space.

The maps are beautifully engraved and printed, and the atlas is a very useful one for giving broad conceptions of the different classes of facts therein depicted. It is lamentable that American publishers cannot be induced to make similar atlases, giving corresponding prominence to our own country. H. G.

SENH. ERNESTO DE VASCONCELLOS publishes in the *Revista Portugueza Colonial e Maritima* of November a photogravure of an old map of Mombasa. In the margins of the plan is a description of the island, its capture and its restoration in 1728, which is approximately the date of the map. The reproduction is half the size of the original, which is drawn in colors, to the scale of half an Italian mile, of 60 to the degree. The water is colored greenish and shaded, and the fortifications are traced in carmine.

A comparison of the map with the recent Admiralty Chart of Mombasa shows only a few changes in outline, the natural result of the action of the water.

The most marked differences are in the breadth and the direction of the two streams, the Druma and the Arabaia, which enter the sea at the north end of the island.

G. C. H.